

## The old ways were made of purpose and charm and thse were the values Mamá tried to teach her girls. They only rolled their eyes. Mamá's life and her love were formed by

the pattern of those old ways. Traditions were as hard for her to relinquish as her wringer washer, her line-dried sheets. She tried her best, alongside her husband Manuel, to shape their childen with the same care with which she shaped her homemade bread rolls...only, the girls, the boys, their lifestyles and their mates, were not of that sweeter time. The old ways were more likely to clash with the new ways, of a new day, in a new country.

Customs served to protect a family, to insure its success and survival It worked long ago, in the Old Country. Could it work in Pennsylvania? Now?

\$14 US / \$15 CAN



Laughing Cactus Press
Imprint of Silver Boomer Books
Abilene, Texas USA



5.50 x 8.50 216 mm x 140 mm

.700 17.78mm

Tess Almendárez Lojacono

## Milagros



a novel

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Content Type: B&W Paper Type: Creme Page Count: 312 File Type: Quark Request ID: CSS564719



Document Size: 15" x 12" 305 x 381 mm